



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5384**

February Session, 2014



**AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF NURSE STAFFING LEVELS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-89e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; and

5 (2) "Hospital" means an establishment for the lodging, care and  
6 treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal physical  
7 or mental conditions and includes inpatient psychiatric services in  
8 general hospitals.

9 (b) [On and after July 1, 2009, each] Each hospital licensed by the  
10 department pursuant to chapter 368v shall [, upon request, make  
11 available] report, annually, to the department on a prospective nurse  
12 staffing plan with a written certification that the nurse staffing plan is  
13 sufficient to provide adequate and appropriate delivery of health care  
14 services to patients in the ensuing period of licensure. Such plan shall  
15 promote a collaborative practice in the hospital that enhances patient  
16 care and the level of services provided by nurses and other members of  
17 the hospital's patient care team.

18 (c) Each hospital shall establish a hospital staffing committee to  
19 assist in the preparation of the nurse staffing plan required pursuant to  
20 subsection (b) of this section. Registered nurses employed by the  
21 hospital whose primary responsibility is to provide direct patient care  
22 shall account for not less than fifty per cent of the membership of each  
23 hospital's staffing committee. In order to comply with the requirement  
24 that a hospital establish a hospital staffing committee, a hospital may  
25 utilize an existing committee or committees to assist in the preparation  
26 of the nurse staffing plan, provided not less than fifty per cent of the  
27 members of such existing committee or committees are registered  
28 nurses employed by the hospital whose primary responsibility is to  
29 provide direct patient care. Each hospital, in collaboration with its  
30 staffing committee, shall develop and implement to the best of its  
31 ability the prospective nurse staffing plan. Such plan shall: (1) Include  
32 the minimum professional skill mix for each patient care unit in the  
33 hospital, including, but not limited to, inpatient services, critical care  
34 and the emergency department; (2) identify the hospital's employment  
35 practices concerning the use of temporary and traveling nurses; (3) set  
36 forth the level of administrative staffing in each patient care unit of the  
37 hospital that ensures direct care staff are not utilized for administrative  
38 functions; (4) set forth the hospital's process for internal review of the  
39 nurse staffing plan; and (5) include the hospital's mechanism of  
40 obtaining input from direct care staff, including nurses and other  
41 members of the hospital's patient care team, in the development of the  
42 nurse staffing plan.

43 (d) Each hospital shall report, not later than ten days after the  
44 beginning of each calendar quarter, to the Department of Public Health  
45 its actual daily nurse staffing levels for each patient care unit. Such  
46 report shall include: (1) The number of registered nurses providing  
47 direct patient care and the ratio of patients to such registered nurses;  
48 (2) the number of licensed practical nurses providing direct patient  
49 care and the ratio of patients to such licensed practical nurses; (3) the  
50 number of registered nurse's aides, as defined in section 20-102aa,  
51 providing direct patient care and the ratio of patients to such

52 registered nurse's aides; (4) the method used by the hospital to  
 53 determine and adjust direct patient care staffing levels; and (5) a  
 54 comparison between the prospective nurse staffing plan and the actual  
 55 daily nurse staffing levels for each patient care unit.

56 (e) Not later than twenty days after the beginning of any calendar  
 57 quarter during which a hospital's actual nurse staffing levels for any  
 58 patient care unit are more than ten per cent above or below the  
 59 hospital's projected staffing levels stated in the prospective nurse  
 60 staffing plan, as described in subsection (b) of this section, such  
 61 hospital shall submit to the Commissioner of Public Health, or the  
 62 commissioner's designee, an adjusted prospective nurse staffing plan  
 63 for the remainder of that calendar year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2014	19a-89e
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**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In section 1(d)(5), "plan" was inserted after "prospective nurse staffing", for accuracy, and in section 1(e), the phrase "staffing levels in the prospective nurse staffing plan" was changed to "staffing levels stated in the prospective nurse staffing plan", for clarity.

**PH**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*